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## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

King of glory and peace, Your love sustains us. Each day You give us Your peace and joy, providing rest to the weary and renewing the strength of those exhausted by life's trials.

In Your compassion lead our law-makers to Your desired destination. When they cry to You for help, be their strength and shield. Lord, You are peace, joy, gladness, gentleness, beauty, and truth. Be our protector, guardian, and defender from this time forth even forever more.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 409, the Warren college affordability legislation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2432) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. this evening. At 5:30 there will be three cloture votes on nominations of U.S. district judges: Lauck of Virginia, Sorokin of Massachusetts, and Boulware of Nevada.

(Ms. HIRONO assumed the Chair.)

### LAS VEGAS TRAGEDY

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is with a lot of sadness that I come to the floor today following the tragic event that took place in Las Vegas yesterday.

I spoke with Sheriff Gillespie this morning.

Two police officers were having lunch in a pizza restaurant on Nellis Boulevard in Las Vegas, and two people walked in, shot them both and killed them, took their guns and their badges, put some kind of a flag over them representing whomever they were representing, and walked across the street to Wal-Mart and killed an innocent woman. Then they killed themselves. All the details are not available, but there is no question they were murdered in cold blood—for no reason other than the weirdness or craziness of this couple.

So all of Nevada mourns the loss of our neighbors, our friends and, in the case of Officers Alyn Beck and Igor Soldo, our protectors. My sympathy goes to their family members and loved ones. This hits very close to home.

Many years ago when I practiced law, I brought a fine young man into my law firm named Claude Zobell. Claude has been with me for all these years. He ran my Washington office. He went on to become dean of a law school, and he is now an attorney for a hotel chain in Tennessee. But he has helped me all these years fill out my financial disclosures. His nephew, his wife's mom's son, was one of the police officers killed. Anne, Claude Zobell's daughter,

works for me here in Washington. I talked to him this morning. The cousin was killed. The pain that people go through in these unnecessary tragedies and senseless shootings is awful.

No words can undo the unspeakable act which claimed the lives of these two men. They have families—wives, children. So that their families know, not only is Nevada grieving but all of America is grieving.

My thanks go to the law enforcement officers who were called in after the killings to work at that scene and the scene across the street, putting their lives in peril every step of the way. It seems that our law enforcement officers respond to these scenes every day—in Santa Barbara, in Seattle, and on and on with the names of cities where people are shot. I so appreciate these law officers every day putting their lives on the line.

We take for granted here in the Senate the people looking after us. There are people out there who are so evil, who try every day to do harm to not only the Presiding Officer, not only me, but to people who work in these buildings, the tourists that come to these buildings. So if there are any complaints about having too much security, come to me and I will try to explain why we need it.

So without elaborating, my deepest sympathies are with the families of those who died.

We in Congress have a duty to put in place legislation that helps prevent these deranged, weird, and evil people who carry out such savage acts of violence. A step in the right direction would be background checks so that people who are criminals, who are deranged, can't buy a gun. The American people are depending on us to pass legislation to prevent gun violence to safeguard our communities, schools, and families.

There is not a single Senator I know of who says: Let's get rid of all the guns; let's make sure that people don't

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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